said medium personal number is used for decrypting said encrypted electronic information; and

an information storage area including information which is encrypted based on said medium personal number and encrypted independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

REMARKS

The subject Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the subject application based upon the Request for Continued Examination which was filed on July 29, 2002, and is submitted further to the response which was filed on June 3, 2002, which was the "submission" with accompanied the Request for Continued Examination. The above amendments and the subject application were discussed in the interview on August 15, 2002. Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in conducting this interview, and submit that the above amendments and the following remarks should be sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance.

As discussed during the interview, the amendments of June 3, 2002, should have been sufficient to overcome the numerous formal objections and rejections set forth therein. The claims, as submitted herein, are directed to subject matter which is in compliance with 35 USC § 101, 35 USC § 112, and overall patent practice, in that they recite statutory subject matter, and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. It is further submitted that the above amendments, and the

claims submitted herein, do not raise any recaptured issued under 35 USC § 251, and recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art.

In this amendment, claims 103-110 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 11, 17-19, 23-29, 33-39, 43-49, 53-56, 111-113, 119 and 123-125 have been further amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-56, 111-113, and 119-125 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

During the interview, and applicants' previous response, it was discussed that the subject application is directed to methods and apparatuses wherein a storage medium is authenticated through a medium personal number, and other information which is encrypted based on the medium personal number, and electronic information. The personal number and other information which can be in the form of permission information, encrypted data, and/or a decryption key, are used to authenticate the disk and provide access to the electronic data stored on the disk. The disk can be used on any of a plurality of computers, but cannot be copied.

It was discussed that the prior art of Matyas (U.S. Patent No. 4,757,534), was directed to a significantly different configuration wherein a computer program or computer software stored on a magnetic disk can be freely copied or backed up (column 2, lines 32-38), but can only be accessed on a single designated computer. In an alternative embodiment, the configuration of Matyas can be used on other computers, as long as a specific single piece of hardware, referred to as a smartcard, is disposed in the

particular device. Therefore, the configuration of Matyas is such that the software is tied to a specific piece of hardware, while the present invention is not.

During the interview, it was preliminarily discussed that the above discussion would be sufficient to distinguish the invention from Matyas. However, it was also discussed that, in the opinion of the Examiner, claims which did not include either a step, a storage area, or data representing a medium personal number, a step, a storage area, or data representing permission information or a decryption key, and electronic data, may raise questions as to support in the specification and recapture under 35 USC § 251. In order to expedite the allowance of this application, claims 103-110 have been cancelled without prejudice, and the remaining claims have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention in a manner which is acceptable to the Examiner, and which is clearly distinguishable over the cited prior art. For example, some of the elements of claim 1 which distinguish over the cited prior art are the medium personal number which is recited as being particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, with the medium personal number being written in an un-rewritable form. As discussed during the interview, column 2, lines 32-38 of Matyas clearly disclose that all of the contents of the diskette of Matyas can be copied to a back up diskette. This would necessarily include the "serial number" which is recorded in the header record of the diskette (column 5, lines 32-34). Therefore, Matyas does not disclose or suggest any element which could be considered comparable to the medium personal number of the present claims. Similarly, claim 1 recites permission information which includes a decryption key encrypted in a

manner that is generated independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer, and generated based upon the medium personal number. The word "computer" was discussed in the interview. After careful consideration, applicants submit that this term is fully supported in the specification, and that the claims are sufficient to distinguish over the cited prior art.

Independent claims 6, 11, 17, 18, 19, 23-29, 33-56, 111-113, and 119-125 recite similar limitations which are consistent with the discussions and the distinguishing features which were set forth in the interview and in applicants' response of June 3, 2002.

It is respectfully submitted that full support for the configurations recited in the present claims exists in the original patent, including Figures 2-4, and the corresponding discussions in the specification.
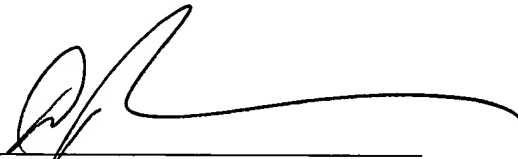
During the interview, there was some discussion as to whether or not there was support in the specification for a storage medium having the storage areas recited, for example, in claims 33-39. Applicants respectfully submit that the flow chart of Figure 4 illustrates a configuration wherein the storage process of encrypted software 15 occurs. This configuration, in conjunction with the storage medium illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, and other aspects of the specification, provide full support for the invention as recited in these claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered, claims 1-56, 111-113, and 119-125 found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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DHG:scc

Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

1. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

encrypted electronic data;

a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which said user computer cannot rewrite; and

permission information which includes a decryption key encrypted in a manner that is generated independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and generated based upon said medium personal number.

6. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

encrypted electronic data;

a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which said user computer cannot rewrite; and

permission information encrypted in a manner that is generated independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer <u>and generated based upon said medium personal number</u>.

11. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and a user computer said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer said storage medium comprising:

encrypted electronic data;

a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

encrypted permission information that is <u>generated</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer <u>and generated based upon said medium personal number</u>;

wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an unrewritable form which a user computer cannot rewrite.

17. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein the

medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which a user storage reading apparatus cannot rewrite;

electronic information; and

information which is encrypted based on said medium personal number and is encrypted independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and said medium personal number is used for generating a decryption key for decrypting said encrypted electronic data in said user computer.

18.   (Three Times Amended)   A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

encrypted electronic information;

a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium;

wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which the user storage reading apparatus cannot rewrite, and said medium personal number is used for decrypting said encrypted electronic information; and

information which is encrypted based on said medium personal number and is encrypted independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

19. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon the decryption key;

a second storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific first computer.

23. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based upon the decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the encrypted decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon the decryption key;

a second storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted

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decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific first computer.

24. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon the decryption key;

a second storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

25. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based

upon the encrypted decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon the decryption key;

a second storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

26. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a plurality of computers which decrypt an encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium, the encrypted decryption key being based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer, and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer in a particular computer, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon the decryption key;

a second storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing an encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

27. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from different computers at different times, the storage medium comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon a decryption key;

a second storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from the computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing an encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted

decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

28. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer, said storage medium, comprising:

a first storage area for storing encrypted electronic information, the encrypted electronic information includes electronic information encrypted based upon a decryption key;

a second storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a third storage area for storing an encrypted decryption key, wherein the encrypted decryption key is <u>generated</u> based upon the medium personal number and the decryption key is <u>generated</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

29. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic

information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is generated independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific first computer.

33. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based upon the decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been

decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is generated independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer.

34. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is generated independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer; and

a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the decryption key has been decrypted.

35. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based upon the decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is generated independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

36. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a plurality of computers which decrypt an encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium, the encrypted decryption key being based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption

key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer in a particular computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from the computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing the encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is generated based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is generated independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer; and

a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the decryption key has been decrypted.

37. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from different computers at different times, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from the computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium;

a storage area for storing an encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is _generated_ based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is _generated_ independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer; and

a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the decryption key has been decrypted.

38. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer, said storage medium, comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; [and]

a storage area for storing an encrypted decryption key, wherein the decryption key is _generated_ based upon the medium personal number and the encrypted decryption key is _generated_ independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer; and

a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the decryption key has been decrypted.

39. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage

medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific first computer.

43. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific first computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based upon the decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, and accessible from a plurality of second computers which the decrypt the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific second computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic

information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from at least the second computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific second computer.

44. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

45. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a first computer which encrypts a decryption key based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which stores the encrypted decryption key onto the storage medium and which encrypts electronic information based upon the decryption key and which stores the encrypted electronic information onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

46. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from a plurality of computers which decrypt an encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium, the encrypted decryption key being based upon the medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and which decrypt encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer in a particular computer, comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from the computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

47. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessible from different computers at different times, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable from the computers, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; [and]

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer<u>; and</u>

<u>a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the encrypted information has been decrypted</u>.

48. (Twice Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer, said storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; [and]

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and encrypted independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer; and

a storage area for storing electronic data which is accessible after the encrypted information has been decrypted.

49. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer in a manner such that a decryption key is encrypted based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and the encrypted decryption key is stored onto the storage medium, and accessed in a manner such that the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer and that encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

53. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer in a manner such that a decryption key is decrypted based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and the encrypted decryption key is stored onto the storage medium and that electronic information is encrypted based upon the decryption key and the encrypted electronic information is stored onto the storage medium, and accessed in a manner such that the encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer and that encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer in a particular second computer in different time, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing a medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

54. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer in a manner such that a decryption key is encrypted based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and that the encrypted decryption key is stored onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

55. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer in a manner such that a decryption key is encrypted based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and the encrypted decryption key is stored onto the storage medium and that electronic information is encrypted based upon the decryption key and the encrypted electronic information is stored onto the storage medium, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

56. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a computer in a manner such that an encrypted decryption key stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon a medium personal number and independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and encrypted electronic information stored on the storage medium is decrypted based upon the decryption key that has been decrypted based on the medium personal number and independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer, the storage medium comprising:

a storage area for storing the medium personal number, which is un-rewritable, wherein the medium personal number is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

a storage area for storing encrypted information which includes information encrypted based upon the medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from the specific apparatus number for the specific computer.

111. (Twice Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

an area storing encrypted electronic data;

an area storing a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which the user computer cannot change; and

an area storing permission information which includes a decryption key encrypted in a manner that is independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer and based upon said medium personal number.

112. (Twice Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and user computer, said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

an area storing encrypted electronic data;

an area storing a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which the user computer cannot rewrite; and

an area storing permission information encrypted in a manner that is independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer <u>and based upon said medium personal number</u>.

113. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium accessed by a vendor computer and a user computer said storage medium for storing information readable by said user computer, said storage medium comprising:

an area storing encrypted electronic data;

an area storing a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium; and

an area storing encrypted permission information that is <u>encrypted</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer;

wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which a user computer cannot rewrite.

119. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium readable by a computer, said storage medium comprising:

<u>data representing a medium personal number;</u>

encrypted data; and

first data that is based on [a] the medium personal number and encrypted

independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer, wherein the

medium personal number is un-rewritable and particularly personal for each storage

medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, and

wherein the first data is used by the computer to decrypt the encrypted data.

123. (Three Times Amended) A storage medium readable by different computers

at different times, the storage medium comprising:

data representing a medium personal number;

encrypted data; and

first data that is based on [a] the medium personal number and encrypted

independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer, wherein the

medium personal number is un-rewritable and particularly personal for each storage

medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, and

wherein the first data is used by the computer to decrypt the encrypted data.

124. (Twice Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access and

processing by a storage reading apparatus, said storage medium comprising:

a medium personal number storage area including a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium, wherein the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which a user storage reading apparatus cannot rewrite;

an electronic information storage area including electronic information; and

an information storage area including information which is encrypted based on said medium personal number and encrypted independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.

125.   (Twice Amended)   A storage medium for storing data for access and processing by a user storage reading apparatus, said storage medium comprising:

an encrypted electronic information storage area including encrypted electronic information;

a medium personal number storage area including a medium personal number which is particularly personal for each storage medium and is different from a medium personal number of another storage medium;

wherein at least the medium personal number is written onto the storage medium in an un-rewritable form which the user storage reading apparatus cannot rewrite, and said medium personal number is used for decrypting said encrypted electronic information; and

an information storage area including information which is encrypted based on said medium personal number and <u>encrypted</u> independent from a specific apparatus number for a specific computer.